

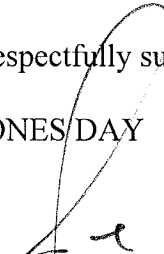
REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action mailed on January 21, 2009. In the office action, claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 7 is objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but is otherwise allowable. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The applicant further disagrees with the apparent conclusion in paragraph 2 of the office action that the applicant's request for pre-appeal panel review is inconsistent with previous office action responses. The reference to Fig. 1 in the pre-appeal panel review was included as an example of the features recited in the independent claims for the purpose of explaining the claims to the panel. The applicant in no way implied that the everything included in Fig. 1 is a required element of the independent claims.

Nonetheless, for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1, 18 and 19 have each been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 7 (along with intervening claim 6). The claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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